

CLAIMS:

1. A method for the treatment in a mammal of an inflammatory or erosive disease, said method comprising administering to the mammal a compound capable of inhibiting a proprotein convertase.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammatory or erosive disease is characterized by furin or furin-like protease activity.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from PDX or a construct, variant, analog, PDX-related peptide, PDX-related-peptidomimetic, their salts, complexes or derivatives.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the compound is selected from PDX or a construct, variant, analog, PDX-related peptide, PDX-related-peptidomimetic, their salts, complexes or derivatives.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered in the form of a prodrug.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered in combination with an intracellular carrier.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered by a gene therapy delivery system.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein a cell transfectant is used as the gene therapy delivery system.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of TACE in cells of the mammal are blocked.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of TGF $\beta$  in cells of the mammal are blocked.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of mature PDGF in cells of the mammal are blocked.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated growth in cells of the mammal are blocked.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated growth is furin-mediated growth.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of aggrecanase-1 in cells of the mammal are blocked.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammatory disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

20. A composition for treatment in a mammal of an inflammatory or erosive disease, said composition comprising a compound selected from PDX or a construct, variant, analog, PDX-related peptide, PDX-related-peptidomimetic, their salts, complexes or derivatives.